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National Film Board of Canada
P. O. Box 6100
Montreal 3
Province of Quebec



for kindergarten and primary grades

Canadian Indian Legends

Four new filmstrips by three of Canada's
best illustrators of children's stories...

Laurence Hyde

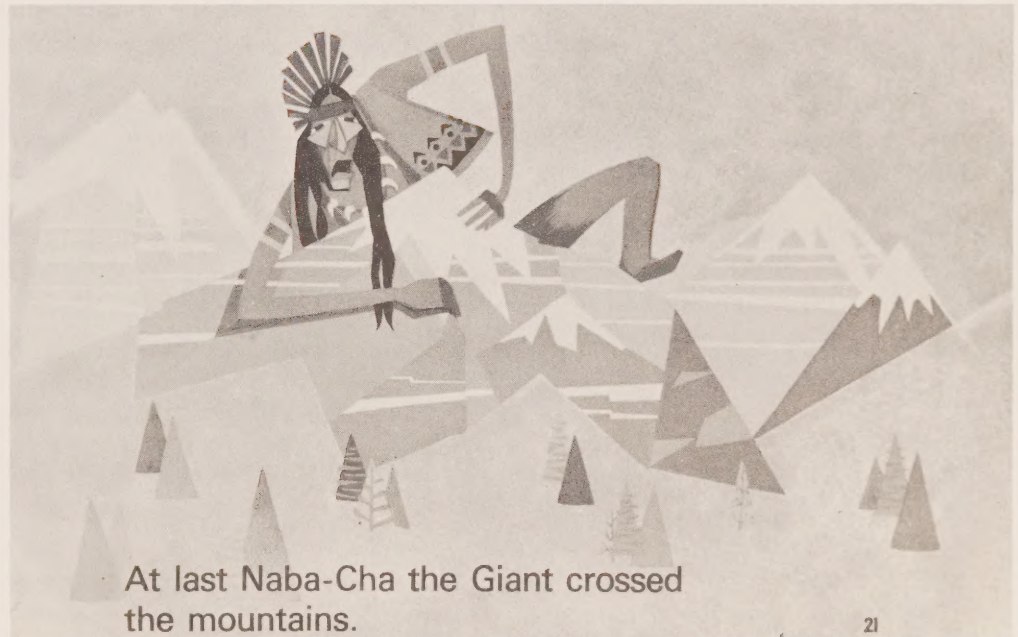
How Bear Lost His Tail
When Goose Stole the Sun

Margot Lovejoy

Glooscap and the Four Wishes

Eunice Bagley

Naba-Cha and the Rocky Mountains



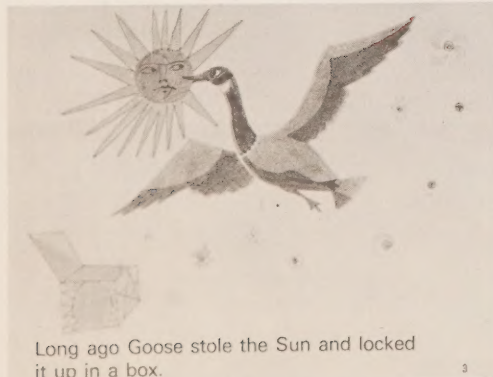
At last Naba-Cha the Giant crossed
the mountains.

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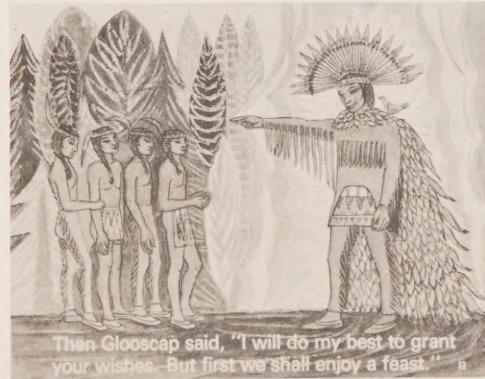
Naba-Cha and the Rocky Mountains
Glooscap and the Four Wishes

How Bear Lost His Tail

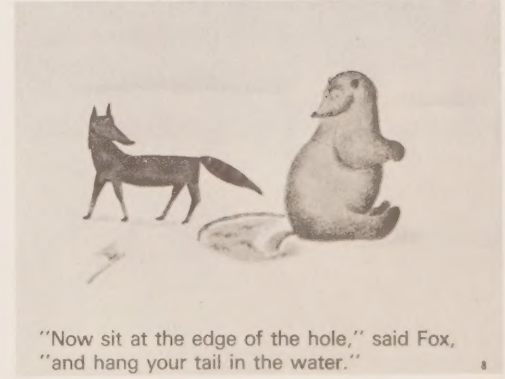
When Goose Stole the Sun



Long ago Goose stole the Sun and locked
it up in a box.



Then Glooscap said, "I will do my best to grant
your wishes. But first we shall enjoy a feast."



"Now sit at the edge of the hole," said Fox,
"and hang your tail in the water."

From Canada's rich heritage of stories and legends, the National Film Board presents these four Indian legend filmstrips for kindergarten and primary grades, illustrated by Canadian artists.

These are a sure stimulus to interest and self-expression in the primary classroom. All are picture-stories for seeing, for reading, for hearing, for discussing—with color, amusement, whimsy and an inherent play-acting invitation that make learning a joy.

931662

How Bear Lost His Tail

31 frames, color, captions

From the Iroquois Indians, an amusing tale of the trusting bear and the wily fox, told in simple, uncluttered pictures and captions that even the youngest child will readily appreciate. The artist here is Laurence Hyde, whose previous filmstrips, *Summer Comes to the Country* and *Winter Comes to the Country* are also popular in the primary grades.

931663

Glooscap and the Four Wishes

34 frames, color, captions

This story came from the Micmac Indians on Canada's Atlantic coast. Margot Lovejoy's illustration is rich in detail and color, as dramatic in its effect as the story it tells. This is a story of Glooscap, a wise magician and a great chief, who has the power to grant wishes. What the wishes are, and how they are granted to the four young chiefs, makes a tale that your pupils will readily retell by word, acting or in artwork.

931661

When Goose Stole the Sun

27 frames, color, captions

A Salish Indian legend, also illustrated by Laurence Hyde. Here the story is set on the Pacific coast and involves the wild goose, the crowlike raven, and the spiny sea-urchins found on the beach. How raven persuades goose to release the sun is a story your pupils will want to follow again and again. You, too, will be amused at this explanation of why geese walk so uncomfortably.

941660

Naba-Cha and the Rocky Mountains

33 frames, color, captions

This is a Dogrib Indian legend about the high country where mountains and men are built to grand scale. It is the giant in this story, however, who is foiled by a little boy and his friend the moose. Here the artist, Eunice Bagley, treats the story gaily, emphasizing the comic aspect of the David and Goliath theme, but suggesting, nonetheless, something of the vastness of this region.

What Stories and Legends Meant to Indians(from information given by Diamond Jenness in his book, *Indians of Canada*)

Indians depended on stories and legends to help them understand and explain their world, just as children do before they learn to read and are able to gather knowledge from books. Indians lacked written language — the stories they heard were their textbooks, and they listened eagerly.

Indians of one culture would often borrow stories from another group, just as peoples have always done and still do. As he retold them, the borrowed stories were adapted to the borrower's own ideas about life. That is why, in the Canadian Indian legends told in these filmstrips, you may hear echoes of stories you have told before.

An Indian legend belongs usually to one of two cycles of stories: an early cycle that recalled life before man lost his place in the animal world (and his capacity to talk to animals), and a later cycle of stories that tell of man as he is now.

The stories from the first cycle are largely nature stories — animals are the principal characters, and all animals and man speak a common language. The two filmstrips, *How Bear Lost His Tail* and *When Goose Stole The Sun*, are examples of early-cycle stories.

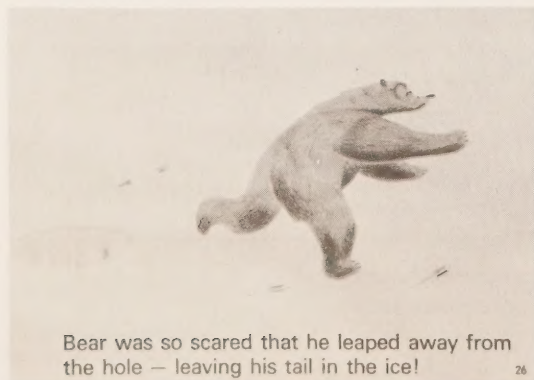
Indian stories often concern a trickster — a hero who rises from poor beginnings to do great deeds and achieve renown. Often the trickster has the help of a supernatural guardian, as in the filmstrip, *Naba-Cha and the Rocky Mountains*. There the orphan is aided by the moose, and so tricks the giant.

Sometimes, though, the trickster is more of the sort we imagine, a character who plays pranks on other people. Needless to say, Indians had as much humor as anyone else and enjoyed laughing at a funny story, well told.

In the stories of the second style, the events are more akin to what happens in our legends. The heroes are people, and animals play a smaller role. Magic usually has a place in these legends, just as it does in our fairy stories. So does repetition of events or number, although Indians seem to favor four wishes, four tries, and so on, instead of our three. The filmstrip, *Glooscap and the Four Wishes*, is an example of a legend from the later second-cycle group.

One peculiarity you will notice in Indian tales is their lack of a moral. As Indians told them, the stories never questioned why a character behaved as he did, nor did they judge him good or bad. Indian legends drew no moral although, as is evident, the stories had ethical effect and many tales were employed in religious ceremony.

How Bear Lost His Tail



Bear was so scared that he leaped away from the hole — leaving his tail in the ice!

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Filmstrips may be purchased either singly or in sets. The set of four *Canadian Indian Legends* filmstrips costs \$14.40 when ordered as a complete set. Purchased individually, these color filmstrips cost \$4.00 each.

Purchase orders should be addressed to:

Canadian Division
National Film Board of Canada
P.O. Box 6100, Montreal 3, Quebec

A postage-paid reply order card is enclosed for your convenience.